

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABIDJA 07781 060819Z  
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 MCE-00 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 INR-07  
NSAE-00 SS-15 SP-02 /047 W  
-----005660 070037Z /66  
R 051451Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4765  
DOD WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABIDJAN 7781

DOD FOR ISA AND DIA

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MASS  
SUBJECT: IVORIAN REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION ON U.S.  
ARTILLERY PIECES

1. IVORIAN ARMED FORCES G-4, MAJOR DEY, MADE INFORMAL APPROACH TO DATT AUGUST 4 REQUESTING INFORMATION (SPECIFICATIONS AND PRICE) ON U.S. 105-MM HOWITZERS M102 AND M101A1. MAJOR DEY SAID GOIC INTERESTED IN PURCHASING FIVE OR SIX WEAPONS, AND MENTIONED INTEREST IN ITALIAN 105/14 PACK HOWITZER SHOULD U.S. PIECES BE UNAVAILABLE. DATT UNDERTOOK TO PROVIDE REQUESTED INFORMATION, BUT SAID APPROVAL FOR SALE WOULD BE UNLIKELY IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE AND THAT ANY FORMAL REQUEST SHOULD BE FORWARDED THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS.

2. HOWITZERS ARE PROBABLY INTENDED TO REPLACE AGING M2/105'S, WHICH GOIC OBTAINED FROM FRANCE SOME YEARS AGO.

3. EMBASSY BELIEVES DEY MAY BE SIMPLY "COMPARISON SHOPPING" TO ASCERTAIN PRICE SCHEDULES, AND MAY BE PERSONALLY UNAWARE OF PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN PURCHASING ARMS FROM U.S. OR OF NEW RESTRICTIVE POLICY ON ARMS TRANSFERS (ALTHOUGH THIS WAS CONVEYED TO GOIC IN MAY 1977). IF THIS INDEED  
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THE CASE, A FORMAL APPROACH FROM GOIC WOULD BE UNLIKELY. SHOULD A FORMAL REQUEST BE RECEIVED, HOWEVER, EMBASSY'S REACTION WOULD BE VERY NEGATIVE. WE WOULD HOPE TO RESPOND SYMPATHETICALLY TO REQUESTS FOR TRAINING OR ORIENTATION IN SOME AREAS, BUT CAN DISCERN LITTLE OF BENEFIT TO U.S. INTERESTS IN SALES OF ARTILLERY TO IVORY COAST, AND MANY VALID ARGUMENTS AGAINST SUCH SALES, NOT THE LEAST OF WHICH IS

THE SOMEWHAT IMPROVED ATMOSPHERE IN U.S.-GUINEA RELATIONS.  
EMBASSY BELIEVES USG SHOULD BE RESPONSIVE TO REQUEST FOR  
INFORMATION (IF THIS NOT RESTRICTED) BUT FIRMLY DISCOURAGING  
AS REGARDS POSSIBILITY OF ACTUAL SALES. DATT CONCURS. COOKE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY PROCUREMENT, ARTILLERY  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977ABIDJA07781  
**Document Source:** CORE  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Subject:** IVORIAN REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION ON U.S. ARTILLERY PIECES  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009